(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Proposals for further investment in Punjab will be examined on merits keeping in view techno-economic considerations and the need for balanced regional development.

(d) As no Central Public Sector Enterprise has been set up in the State of Punjab since 1984, no further employment opportunities could be created in the State.

Electricity production in the country

43. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many megawatts of electricity is being produced in the country from renewable and non-conventional sources of energy at present;

(b) whether Government propose to undertake further projects in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Under Wind Energy Programme a total installed capacity of 8.00 MW has been created which has resulted in the production of over 15 million units of electricity for respective State grids already. A total of 27.35 MW capacity is under implementation. Small solar photovoltaic-based electric units for lighting and community uses have also been installed in about 5000 villages.

Efforts have also been made to generate electricity from municipal wastes and a 3.75 MW plant in this regard has already been set up in Delhi on an experimental basis. Another 10 MW power generation plant based on rice straw is under execution in Punjab.

A feasibility report for the installation of a 30 MW solar thermal power plant has been prepared and is awaiting final clearances.

The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has also prepared a 15 years perspective paper which envisages annual energy generation/saving from new and renewable sources of energy to the extent of 250.17 million tonnes of coal replacement by the turn of the century provided adequate resources are made available. This includes generation of 15000 MW of power mainly from biomass, wind, solar, small hydro, municipal wastes as well as generation/saving of energy from improved chulhas, biogas plants and other renewable sources.

In addition under hydro power, which is another renewable source, a total capacity of 17778.51 MW has been created in the country as on 31-3-1989. In the Eighth Plan, it is tentatively envisaged to add hydro capacity of 8230 MW.

Adequate fund for new power projects in Andhra Pradesh

44. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Central Government to provide adequate funds for new power projects in the State;

(b) if so, what is the total allocation made to the State during the last two years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Andhra Pradesh is facing acute power shortage these years;

(d) if so, what further steps are being taken by the Central Government to generate additional power in the State; and